

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL NAHA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO CINCPAC

COGARD

GOV GUAM

TREASURY

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 300471

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: DECEMBER 22 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. CHINA

REP HECKLER WILL HEAD 12-WOMAN CODEL VISITING PRC OVER CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY. ALL 19 CONGRESSWOMAN INVITED BY PRC FORMINISTRY, BUT SEVEN HAD OTHER COMMITMENTS. HECKLER'S OFFICE SAYS SHE SUGGESTED INVITATION TO CHINESE DURING AUGUST VISIT. MINK WILL BE CODEL DEPUTY CHAIRWOMAN; OTHERS: ABZUG, HOLTZMAN, BOGGS, BURKE, COLLINS, SCHROEDER, MEYNER, SPELLMAN, FENWICK, SMITH (WSTAR 12/19).

WSJ'S LIPSKY REPORTS TWO-WAY SINO-US TRADE IN 1975 IS EXPECTED TOTAL ABOUT 450 MILLION DOLS--LESS THAN HALF 935 MILLION VOLUME REGISTERED IN 1974, AND MANY ANALYSTS UNCLASSIFIED

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PREDICT TOTAL LIKELY DROP AGAIN IN 1976. SAYS GENERALLY AGREED PRIMARY REASON FOR DECLINE INVOLVES US AGRIC SALES TO PEKING, WHICH HAVE FALLEN SUBSTANTIALY IN RECENT MONTHS AS PRC HARVESTS HAVE IMPROVED.

STRAUSS (JOC, 12/19) IN HK REPORTS BANK OF CHINA, IN SHARP REVERSAL OF COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY, HAS BEGUN ISSUING US DOLLAR SAVINGS AND FIXED-TERM DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS. INTEREST RATES PAID ARE COMPETITIVE WITH HK BANKS,

FORCING CONCLUSION PEKING EAGER OBTAIN WEAK, CAPITALISTIC GREENBACKS.

IN SECOND COLUMN, STRAUSS NOTES INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL HAS DECIDED REQUEST PEKING LIMIT TIN EXPORTS AT TIMES WHEN ITC EXPORT CONTROLS IN FORCE; AND MALAYSIA HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL ALSO ASK PRC CONTROL TIN SALES. STRAUSS SEES CHINESE FACING DILEMMA WHETHER SHOW AMITY TO KL OR CONTINUE EFFORT EARN HARD CURRENCY THROUGH TIN SALES; OBSERVES THAT IN PAST, PEKING'S GRACEFUL ACQUIESCENCE TO GOM WOULD HAVE BEEN FOREGONE CONCLUSION.

NYT'S BUTTERFIELD, IN HK, SAYS MAJOR NEW PRC CAMPAIGN TO PRESERVE RADICAL EDUCATION SYSTEM DEvised DURING GPCR HAS REVEALED WHAT APPEAR TO BE CONTINUED DOUBTS AMONG CHINESE EDUCATORS ABOUT ITS EFFECTIVENESS.

REUTER (SUN 12/20) REPORTS THOUSANDS WEARING WHITE FLOWERS OF MOURNING SHUFFLED SILENTLY BY KANG SHENG'S ASHES FRIDAY. IN RARE GESTURE, FOREIGNERS WERE PERMITTED JOIN PRC TRIBUTE TO KANG.

AP PHOTOS KO JUA, PRC ENVOY TO PHILIPPINES, PRESENTING CREDENTIALS TO MARCOS FRIDAY (NYT 12/21).

ALL 30 KUOMINTANG CANDIDATES WERE ELECTED SUNDAY IN ROC PARTIAL PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION TO FILL 37 SEATS VACATED BY DEATHS. SEVEN OTHER CANDIDATES WERE INDEPENDENTS, AND ONLY ONE WON ON PLATFORM CRITICAL OF CCK GOVT (UPI, WP).

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2. INDOCHINA

REMAINS 3 US PILOTS KIA IN WAR FLOWN FROM HANOI TO BANGKOK IN LAOTIAN PLANE CHARTERED BY UN, TURNED OVER USG. UN OFFICIAL NOTES "TONE IN HANOI HAS CHANGED," SOME INDICATIONS REMAINS OTHER AMERICANS MIGHT SOON BE RELEASED BY NVN (CSM; AP SUN, NYT, WP, NYDN, PHINQ; UPI, CHITRIB). HOUSE MIA CMTE FOUR-MAN DEL ACCEPTED COFFINS IN HANOI, STAYED BEHIND TO NEGOTIATE WITH NVN AUTHORITIES, EXPECTED REMAIN HANOI FEW DAYS; HOPES GET INFO OTHER MIAS (AP SUN, NYT, WP, NYDN; UPI, CHITRIB). REMAINS TURNED OVER TO UN BY MIDDLE-LEVEL NVN OFFICIALS, THEN UN OFFICIALS TURNED THEM OVER US;

NO HIGH-RANKING NVN OFFICIALS AT AIRPORT (UPI, CHITRIB).

PHINQ'S WALTON NOTES NATL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES' STRUGGLE
KEEP USG FROM CLOSING BOOKS ON 1300 MIAS. BELIEVES

PUBLIC CONCERN CONSIDERABLY COOLED, SEES HISTORY
SWALLOWING UP MIA. ON RECENT HANOI GESTURE, QUOTES
LEAGUE OFFICIAL THAT NVN GOING GIVE REMAINS OF 3
THEY'VE "TRIED TO SELL TO US BEFORE, BUT NOW WE OWE
THEM SOMETHING." LEAGUE REACTION IRKS REP MONTGOMERY
OF MIA CMTE WHO SAYS DOESN'T KNOW ANY OTHER WAY DO IT,
TRYING GET ANSWERS.

FORTY US RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL, COMMUNITY INTEREST
ORGANIZATIONS JOIN NATL "FRIENDSHIPMENT" CAMPAIGN
TO SEND VN AID (WSTAR 12/20). THIRTY SWEDES, DANES
LEAVE ON FIRST 17-DAY NVN TOURIST TRIP. GROUP TOLD
BEHAVIOR DURING TRIP WILL DETERMINE WHETHER OTHER
TOURISTS ALLOWED IN (WSTAR 12/19). POLICEWOMEN
APPEAR ON SAIGON'S STREETS (WP).

3. INDOCHINA REFUGEES

MOST SUNDAY PAPERS NOTE CLOSING FT CHAFFEE, LAST REFUGEE
CAMP, END DRIVE RELOCATE 140,000 REFUGEES. SEVERAL
DO HUMAN-INTEREST STORIES ON LIFE, PROBLEMS REFUGEES
IN NEW HOMES.

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4. KOREA

KIM JONG-PIL GOVT RESIGNED IN BODY FRIDAY; PARK NAMED
CHOI KYU-HAH NEW PREMIER (WSTAR 12/20). PARK ALSO
MADE PARTIAL RESHUFFLE AFFECTING 8 OF 19 CABINET
POSTS; PARK TONG JIN NAMED FM REPLACING KIM DONG JO
(WSTAR 12/19). FOURTH TIME KIM JONG-PIL'S CABINET
HAD RESIGNED EN MASSE SINCE HE BECAME PM IN 1971 (WP).
KIM TOLD REPORTERS HE RESIGNED BECAUSE OF ILLNESS,
WHOSE NATURE HE DID NOT DISCLOSE. RADIO DONGA SAID
KCIA'S SHIN JIK-SOO ALSO RESIGNED (GLOBE 12/19).

NYT (SEOUL) DISPATCH CITES GROK SPOKESMAN THAT
KIM JONG-PIL HAD DONE GOOD JOB UNDER DIFFICULT CONDITIONS.
CABINET SHUFFLE SEEN INTENDED LEND NEW EFFICIENCY TO
ADMIN WHOSE IMAGE, ACCORDING ONE GOVT OFFICIAL, HAD
BEEN "TIRED ONE." SECOND NYT (SEOUL) ITEM OBSERVES
CHOI APPOINTMENT APPEARS REFLECT CURRENT TREND OF
INSTALLING TECHNOCRATS IN KEY GROK POSTS; CHOI EXPECTED
CONTINUE PRESENT BASIC LINE OF SEEKING CLOSER TIES
WITH US, JAPAN. PARK TONG JIN APPOINTMENT CONFIRMS
SK EMPHASIS ON UN AS CENTER OF DEBATES ON FUTURE SOLUTION

TO KOREAN PROBLEM. IN ALL, MOVES STRENGTHEN PARK CONTROL OVER ADMIN. KIM JONG-PIL DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN "SACKED"; MAY BE MOVED TO ANOTHER POST, MOST LIKELY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ACCORDING SOURCES.

5. JAPAN

JOC'S CULLISON, IN TOKYO, REPORTS MIKI DECLARED FRIDAY THAT JAPAN BUDGET DRAFT TENTATIVELY EXPECTED BE COMPLETED WEDNESDAY; EXPECTED CONTAIN GENERAL ACCOUNT SPENDING PROVISION AMOUNTING TO ABOUT 78.7 BILLION.

IN SECOND ARTICLE, CULLISON CITES GOJ ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ELECTRONIC COMPUTER IMPORTS WILL BE FULLY LIBERALIZED WEDNESDAY AND IMPORT OF SOFTWARE TO BE COMPLETELY DECONTROLLED BY APRIL.

AP (LONDON) REPORTS BRITISH, JAPANESE CAR INDUSTRY OFFICIALS ENTERED SECOND DAY OF TALKS FRIDAY SEEKING UNCLASSIFIED

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END LOPSIDED BALANCE OF CAR SALES BETWEEN THEIR COUNTRIES (WP 12/20).

WSTAR'S IRVIN, IN TOKYO, SAYS JAPANESE PLANNING SEVERAL NEW CAR MODELS FOR US MARKET. ONE IS DATSUN F-10, PRICED ABOVE B-210 MODEL BUT OFFERING MORE PERFORMANCE; ANOTHER IS OPEL BY ISUZU--JAPANESE VERSION OF GM "T" OR WORLD CAR. BUT MOST SURPRISING NEW JAPANESE OFFERING WILL BE PLYMOUTH ARROW -- SUBCOMPACT FROM MITSUBISHI. IRVIN MAINTAINS TALK ABOUT JAPANESE "PERFECTING, BUT NOT ORIGINATING" REALLY DOES THEM DISSERVICE, SINCE MAZDA HAS WANKEL ROTARY AND HONDA HAS CVCC STRATIFIED-CHARGE ENGINE (12/19).

WP'S SCHUMACHER NOTES HOW FOREIGN COMPETITION WITH NEW SHIPS HURTS US FISHERMEN. OBSERVES, PARTICULARLY, THAT OFF PACIFIC COAST, US FISHERMEN ACCUSE LARGE JAPANESE FLEET OF "SCORCHED EARTH" POLICY OF FISHING STOCKS UNTIL DEPLETED.

5. AUSTRALIA

WP'S SAAR (12/20) IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA REPORTS USUALLY DRY ALICE SPRINGS AWASH AS 8-IN DOWNPOUR HITS. SAAR (12/21) AT DARWIN NOTES CITY STILL IN RUINS YR AFTER FLATTENED BY TYPHOON. SAYS LITTLE TO SHOW FOR 145 MILLION DOLS SPENT BY GOA. QUOTES RESIDENTS THAT OUT-OF-TOWN OFFICIALS STIFLING EFFORTS PUT DARWIN BACK TOGETHER WHILE PURSUING GRAND, IMPRACTICAL SCHEMES. AUSSIE E-TO-W COAST SHIPPING LINK TERMINATED. FUTURE FREIGHT WILL CROSS CONTINENT BY RAIL; TRIP WILL BE

FASTER, WITH NO COST INCREASE SEEN (STOVE, JOC).

6. INDONESIA

MOST SAT PAPERS REPORT INDO CONSULATE SIEGE AMSTERDAM ENDS WHEN MOLUCCAN GUNMEN SURRENDER. APPARENT DUTCH WILLINGNESS DISCUSS GRIEVANCES BELIEVED PROMPTED SURRENDER (UPI, WSTAR 12/20).

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WSTAR (12/20) REVIEWS MANILA-PEKING RELS; NOTES MARCOS COMPLAINED TO CHOU CONCERNING PRC AID TO FIL REBELS, BUT CHOU TURNED COMPLAINT ASIDE BY CONTENDING PRC WOULD NEVER INTERFERE IN PHILS' INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

8. GENERAL

NYT'S GWERTZMAN (12/20) REPORTS SFRC SUBCMTE APPROVES OVER 4 BILLION DOLS IN FOREIGN AID, INCLUDING MIL GRANTS OF 10 MILLION DOLS FOR INDONESIA (DOWN FROM 19.4 MILLION ADMIN REQUEST); 54 MILLION FOR SK (75 MILLION REQUESTED); 15 MILLION FOR THAILAND (28.3 MILLION REQUESTED).

ASIAN EDITION WSJ TO BE STARTED BY DOW JONES, 4 ASIAN PARTNERS, WHO WILL PUBLISH IN HK, JAPAN, SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA. PETER KANN WILL BE PUBLISHER, EDITOR.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

9. CHINA

WP (12/21) CARRIES SOME TRUDEAU-SKETCHED IMPRESSIONS OF PRES FORD'S PRC TRIP.

REVIEWING FOREIGN PROBLEMS BESETTING HAK, SUN'S TREWHITT MAINTAINS US RELATIONSHIP WITH PRC REMAINS "FASCINATING GEOPOLITICAL EXERCISE," BUT "OFFERS LITTLE SHORT-TERM ADVANTAGE."

10. KOREA

WP (12/20) REGRETS THAT PARK GOVT "APPARENTLY DOES NOT UNDERSTAND" THAT CASES LIKE THOSE OF INCARCERATED KIM CHI HA AND KIM DAE JUNG ARE STEADILY ERODING US PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR GROK; BUT ONE REASON FOR THIS FAILURE IS THAT US "RARELY TROUBLES TO EXPLAIN IT TO THEM."

RECENTLY RETURNED FROM SIX DAYS IN SK AS PARK GUEST, CSM'S SITOMER LISTS "SOME POSITIVE CHANGES" THERE OVER

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LAST 20 YEARS THAT ALMOST UNIFORMLY IMPRESSED GROUP OF US/WEUROPEANS ON "KOREA REVISITED" TOUR; SEOUL APPEARS EARNESTLY DESIROUS OF RECONCILIATION WITH NORTH; SK OFFICIALS HAVE ABOUT GIVEN UP HOPE THAT REUNIFICATIONS WILL RESULT FROM UN ACTIONS; AND EFFORTS TO BOLSTER SK SAGGING ECONOMY ARE MEETING WITH SOME SUCCESS.

LAT'S JAMESON, IN TOKYO, REPORTS MAJOR NK EFFORT IN 1970 TO LESSEN TECHNOLOGICAL DEPENDENCE ON SOVIET APPEARS TO HAVE ENDED IN RUIN WITH NINE NON-COMMUNIST TRADING PARTNERS AS VICTIMS. FOR FEW YEARS NK TRADE WITH NON-COMMUNIST PARTNERS PICKED UP CONSIDERABLY; BUT TRADE NOW HAS APPARENTLY TURNED SOUR, NON-COMMUNIST NATIONS LEFT HOLDING BAG AND ONCE AGAIN KREMLIN SEEN AS MAJOR FACTOR (WP 12/21).

11. INDOCHINA/REFUGEES

CSM NOTES CHAPTER ENDS THAT BEGAN WITH SAIGON FALL. REFUGEES NOW RESETTLED, MUST FIND PLACE IN US SOCIETY. NOTES, DESPITE TOTALITARIAN PRACTICES SUCH AS RE-EDUCATION, VIETS GIVING INDICATIONS SOFTENING ON INTL HUMAN PROBLEMS, SUCH AS RETURN REMAINS 3 MIAS.

SUN (12/21) SEES VN PUTTING RELS WITH US ON "HOLD" WHILE BOTH NORMALIZE INTERNAL POLITICS. HANOI INTENT ON UNIFYING VN, CONSOLIDATING PL POWER IN LAOS; US PREOCCUPIED WITH NEXT YR'S CAMPAIGN. NOTES BOTH BACKED OFF FROM STIFF STANDS TAKEN AFTER COMMUNIST VICTORY, HAVE MADE GESTURES. FUTURE RELS WILL BE MODULATED BY RESPECTIVE RELS WITH MOSCOW, PEKING. FORESEES PERIOD CAUTIOUS GESTURES BETWEEN HANOI, WASHINGTON; WARNS AGAINST LOCKING SELVES, EACH OTHER, INTO KIND STERILE HOSTILITY WASHINGTON, PEKING EXCHANGED FOR 2 DECA8ES.

PROF HUY, FORMER SCHOLAR, POLITICAL FIGURE IN SAIGON (CSM 12/19) DESCRIBES FIGHT THAT STILL GOES ON IN SVN BY RELIGIOUS GROUPS, POLITICAL PARTIES, FORMER ARVN TROOPS. NOTES RESISTANCE AMONG SVN PEOPLE. BELIEVES RESISTANCE CAN CARRY ON LOW-LEVEL GUERRILLA WARFARE
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FOR SEVERAL YEARS, BUT MAY BE SQUEEZED INTO REMOTE AREAS AS NVN TIGHTENS CONTROL. THINKS RESISTANCE CAUSED HANOI GO BACK ON PROMISE UNIFY COUNTRY SLOWLY, GRADUALLY, EMBARK ON RAPID REUNIFICATION. CONCLUDES RESISTANCE PROVES NATIONALISM IN VN CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED

WITH HANDFUL UNSAVORY, CORRUPT OFFICIALS AS WAS DONE BY

THOSE IN US WHO ADVOCATED ABANDONMENT VN STRUGGLE.

LIPSKY (WSJ) SEES NVN VICTORS STRUGGLING WITH RESISTANCE, UNEMPLOYMENT, MONETARY TURMOIL, EMBARRASSING SPREAD CORRUPTION O TO OWN TROOPS, ECON DEVELOPMENT. TELLS STORIES BROUGHT OUT BY FOREIGNERS RECENTLY. SAYS SAIGON CLINGS TO COLORFUL PAST, BUT GRIP SLOWLY SLIPPING IN FACE PROBABLY IRREVERSIBLE SOCIALIST COURSE. DESCRIBES CAMPAIGN TO CURB OPPOSITION, INCLUDING RE-EDUCATION, TRYING SEND CITY-DWELLERS TO LIVE IN COUNTRY. OPINES RESISTANCE PROBABLY CAN'T SERIOUSLY THREATEN NEW REGIME; ECON DIFFICULTIES MORE IMPORTANT PROBLEM. NOTES PUSH FOR REUNIFICATION THAT COULD REMOVE OBSTACLE TO UN MEMBERSHIP ALSO WORRIES NEIGHBORS SINCE VN COULD BECOME DOMINANT SEA POWER. SEES SIGNS THAT HANOI PERPLEXED, FRUSTRATED BY HOW QUICKLY US BECAME ALOOF, APATHETIC ABOUT VN.

12. THAILAND

SOUTHERLAND (CSM) AT BANGKOK REPORTS USSR, PRC WOO THAIS WITH ACROBATS, SINGERS. COMPETITION FOR TRADL, FRIENDSHIP INTENSIFIES AS THAIS PURSUE POLICY BALANCING GREAT POWERS AGAINST EACH OTHER. NOTES CHINEESE IMPRESS THAIS AS DEFT, SENSITIVE NEGOTIATORS, AND PRC TRIPS GROWING POPULAR AMONG THAI ELITE. BELIEVES THAI HOPE PRC WILL HELP RESTRAIN NVN; SINCE HANOI SEEMS LEAN TOWARD USSR, MANY THAIS SEE RUSSIANS AS "AUTOMATICALLY SUSPECT." STATES THAIS KEEP EYE ON ANY PRC MISSION ATTEMPTS SUBVERT LOCAL CHINESE; LIMITATION ON PRL INFLUENCE IS JAPANESE HOLD ON THAI ECONOMY, CLOSE ECON, MIL, CULTURAL RELS WITH US.

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WSTAR'S BRADSHER, IN MANILA (12/20), EXAMINES MARLOS MARTIAL LAW. FINDS SOME FILS' CRITICISM OF IT SOUD? LESS LIKE PRINCIPLED OBJECTIONS TO DICTATORSHIP THAN PLAINTIVE CRIES FOR SHARE OF ACTION BY MEN FROZEN OUT WHEN MARCOS SUDDENLY STOPPED TRADITIONAL TAKING OFTURNS BY DIFFERENT HALVES OF SAME OLIGARCHY IN RUNNING COUNTRY. SAYS WHERE AVERAGE FILIPINO FEELS PINCH OF MARCOS NEW SYSTEM IS IN CORRUPTION. TERMS MRS. MARCOS "VERY FOR ABSENCE CLEAR CONSTITUTIONAL LINE OF SUCCESSION MAY BE DELIBERATE POLICY OF LEAVING WAY OPEN FOR HER.

14. AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

NZ PROF ALLEY (SUN 12/21)REVIEWS STUNNING LABOR

DEFEATS, SAYS AUSSIE VOTERS CLEARLY PERCEIVED
CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION LESS ACUTELY THAN FAMILIAR,
PRESSING ECON ISSUES. NOTES NO PUBLIC DEMAND
FRASER ACCOUNT FOR LIKELY FUTURE COSTS OF PROMISES
TO RURAL INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT SUBSIDIES, TAX CUTS.
CONCLUDES OPPOSING AUSSIE SIDES CLOBER THAN APPARENT
IN ECON APPROACH. FORESEES NEW GOVT ADOPTING
SKEPTICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD DETENTE, URGING GREATER
PREPAREDNESS IN WEST, REDEFINING WORKING RELATIONSHIP
WITH INDONESIA THAT STRAINED BY TIMOR AFFAIR, ALTER RELS
WITH PNG AS ECON CONSTRAINTS CURTAIL COOPERATION LEVEL.

PROF ALLEY ATTRIBUTES LABOR DEFEAT TO INABILITY PM
DOWLING COMMUNICATE WITH VOTERS, WITH CROWDS SWAYED BY
MULDOON'S POPULISM, SKILLFUL EXPLOITATION SOCIAL ISSUES
SUCH AS IMMIGRATION, WILLINGNESS STAND AGAINST TRADE UNIONS.
SAYS MULDOON FEELS S PAC NUKE-FREE ZONE IS PIPE-DREAM.
BELIEVES GOA, GONZ HAVE BASIS FOR CLOSER COOPERATION,
BUT INNOVATION WILL NOT BE CHARACTERISTIC EITHER FOREIGN
POLICY DUE "NO;TALGIA FOR INSULARITY," SOCIAL AND ECON
NEED FOR STRONG LEADERSHIP.

15. GENERAL

NYT'S FLORA LEWIS, IN PARIS (12/21), CONSTRUES HAK
FOREIGN POLICY AS ONE OF KEEPING UP CAPACITY/WILL TO MAKE
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RISKS TO MOSCOW EVIDENT, WHEREVER PRESSURE COMES,
UNTIL PRC, JAPAN, EVENTUALLY FORCE ANOTHER SHIFT IN
TOTAL BALANCE.

NYT'S LEWIS ARGUES THAT ADMIN TALK OF HELPING PEOPLE
OF ANGOLA DECIDE OWN FATE HAS RATHER MOCKING SOUND THESE
DAYS, IN WAKE OF REVELATIONS ABOUT CIA IN CHILE. WONDERS
HOW PRES CAN USE "WORD 'FREE,' WITHOUT GAGGING," FOR
SUCH OBJECTS OF US SUPPORT AS GOVTS OF SK, INDONESIA,
PHILS, ETC. QUESTIONS WHETHER ADMIN LEARNED "BASIC
LESSON" FROM VN AFFAIR THAT US CANNOT BE GLOBAL POLICEMAN.
KISSINGER

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